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CELEBRATING THE ADA: SUPPORTING THE ADA AT THE CPD

August 2, 2010 by cpehrson

Without the support of legislators and advocates across the United States, the Americans with Disabilities Act would never have been enacted. Those with disabilities and their families are indebted to the dedicated work these individuals and groups have accomplished.

Many individuals and organizations continue to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities and the implementation of the ADA. Several of the projects at the CPD focus on supporting the ADA in a variety of ways.

These include:

Work Ability Utah, a project that provides training and resources on employment for persons with individuals. Work AbilityUtah strives to link employers in the business community with a qualified workforce by increasing communication, reducing barriers, and creating a comprehensive system of work incentives and supports for both the employer and the individual with disabilities.

The Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center (DBTAC) Southwest ADA Center is the Southwest's leading resource on the Americans with Disabilities Act and related disability rights laws. It serves a wide range of persons who are interested in or impacted by the ADA, including employers, businesses, government agencies, schools, and people with disabilities. DBTAC provides three main services: technical assistance, training and materials dissemination.

Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) is the umbrella center for the Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center and numerous contracts with State Education Agencies and Lead Agencies. TAESE has a twenty eight-year history of providing quality technical assistance in the area of special education and related topics. They can respond to almost any state need for information, inservice, and technical assistance. TAESE is currently involved in providing technical assistance and training to educators in the areas of Section 504 and the ADA Amendments of 2009 in New Mexico, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Utah.

There are several of the CPD's Interdisciplinary Outreach Training Initiative (IOTI) funded projects that support the implementation of ADA regulations. Two of these are 1) Utah Supported Employment Training Project- which provides training across Utah for individuals with disabilities and businesses on information related to developing inclusive employment supports for people with disabilities, and 2) Disability Specific Training for Faith-based Organizations- which provides training to faith-based leaders and organizations about accessibility for persons with disabilities.

The CPD partner organizations, who are members of the CPD Consumer Advisory Council, provide a great service to individuals with disabilities by supporting the rights outlined in the ADA. The Developmental Disabilities Council and the Utah Disability Law Center are dedicated advocates and provide valuable resources for persons with disabilities in Utah.

In 1990, the year that the ADA was enacted, Utah Senator Orrin G. Hatch was one of the primary sponsors of the Americans with Disabilities Act. In celebration of the ADA 20th Anniversary, the Hatch Committee on Disabilities will be honoring Senator Hatch on Thursday, August 19, 2010.

Our hats go off to all of these individuals, projects and organizations who so diligently support individuals with disabilities by advocating for the implementation of their ADA rights.